

Excerpt from Edward R. Murrow Broadcast, 7 March 1950 - CBS - 7:45 p.m.

How is it that men who appear to be entirely normal, in command of all their faculties, not showing any signs of physical torture can be induced to stand up in a so-called court and confess, eagerly and in great detail to crimes of the most serious nature. In some cases to crimes which they couldn't possibly have committed. The following information is not hearsay or speculation. It comes from our intelligence files in Salzburg and is accompanied by seven colored drawings of various plants and a wealth of scientific detail. The date of the interrogation was 26 November 1946. The man questioned was a Dutchman, named Yon Ebbin (?). He was sent to the Crimea by the Germans in 1943 to investigate a large plantation near Yalta, a place called the Neketta Gardens, established by Czar Nicholas in 1903. This Dutchman reported to our intelligence officers that the great botanical was devoted to the breeding and raising of sub-tropical plants for their speech inducing effects. He asserted that the extract of one plant found near Sevastopol, plus the extract of another plant, found only in Tashkent (?) in Central Asia, produced a drug which the Russians called honelin (?). This drug is said to have a post-hypnotic effect; as a result of which, a human being having been given this drug, will repeat exactly what has been suggested to him, even after the effect of the drug wears off. However, the interrogation, where he repeats these statements, must be made by the same person who made the original suggestion -- that is, the suggestions made while the subject was under the influence of honelin. This Dutch scientist produced a wealth of detail, plus seven colored drawings of the plants in question. Our Army interrogators placed credence in the Dutch scientist's report at the time. It has come to light, at this late date, because one individual remembered the incident and went to the files in Salzburg and dug it out. I am, of course, without an informed opinion on the scientific aspects of this story. But speech inducing drugs are widely known to medical science. And this record from the files in Salzburg does, at least, offer one plausible explanation for a long series of otherwise inexplicable confessions.

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